

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular & budget meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, January 23, 2017 in Room 116, UW Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street, GB, WI

Present: Supervisors Norbert Dantine, Bernie Erickson, Dave Kaster, Dave Landwehr, Tom Sieber
Vacant: Citizen Rep
Also Present: County Conservationist Mike Mushinski, Assistant County Conservationist Jon Bechle, Director of Administration Chad Weininger

**Audio of the meeting is available by contacting the County Board office (920) 448-4015.*

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 28, 2016.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public. None

Communications

1. Communication from Supervisor Dantine re: Discuss the Per Diem Fee for the Farm Bureau Rep on the Land Conservation Sub Committee. *Referred from November County Board.*

Director of Administration Chad Weininger informed that under WI State Statute it allowed for reimbursement but it said that each member of the Land Conservation Committee shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses and shall be paid the same per diem as members of other Brown County Board committees. The ordinance didn't specify a per diem therefore they couldn't pay a per diem so they would need to change the ordinance and make it available to all board members. If they wanted to go into the finite detail, he suggested stating each member of the Land Con Subcommittee shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses. They could figure out what the expense would be for him or pass an ordinance allowing all County Board members to get a per diem out of the County Board budget as it was a committee expense. Erickson responded that there were several committees with citizen reps. He agreed that this was an interesting situation but didn't want to get caught in a position as there were more private individuals than County Board members. Weininger informed they could narrow it down specifically to Land Conservation members according to the ordinance. He could talk with Corporation Counsel to see if there may be another way of narrowly defining it but felt they may have people serving on other committees that would like reimbursement miles too.

Kaster stated that their committee didn't appoint this person, they were appointed by Farm Service Agency (FSA). Weininger responded that some committees were formed by ordinance, this was allowed by statute.

Mushinski informed that he did get paid mileage, which averaged \$8-\$16 depending on the citizen rep.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to direct staff to contact the Farm Service Agency to see if they can reimburse and report back next month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land and Water Conservation

2. Open Positions Report.

Mushinski informed the Agronomist position was posted and they were receiving applicants.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. November 2016 Financials.

Mushinski stated as of November, they looked real good financially.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Directors Report:

a. Working Lands/Farmland Preservation Update.

Mushinski reported that they got out about 400 certificates of compliance this year so far. Each landowner needed a unique number. They had been getting more audit calls too so that was a way they check on participants in the program. The new updates for the townships are being completed. They had seen a large increase in Eaton, Humboldt and New Denmark, a lot more acreage being zoned exclusive ag. They will have more participants, doing more certificates of compliance and getting more conservation done. The staff person will work on it 100%.

b. Demonstration Farm Network Update.

They added two more farms making it six demonstration farms – two in Outagamie, four in Brown County. It was originally structured that the money was coming from NRCS through the Great Lakes Commission and then to Brown County but it didn't work out very well so it will change in September. The agreement will go through NRCS to Brown County; Great Lakes Commission won't be involved anymore in the demonstration farm network. They were too far away, in Ann Arbor Michigan. The advantage was they will be able to extend for another three years.

c. Brown County Deer Advisory Update.

Jon Bechle informed the County Deer Advisory Council met last week to go over the Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan. The councils were set up jointly by WDNR and Wisconsin Conservation Congress. To get feedback from hunters and the public on the plan they conducted an online survey. Each councilman from the county they represent got the comments and was invited to attend those meetings. The advisory council put together their responses and forwarded recommendations back to the state. The plan was set up as a 15 year plan from 2010-2025 with a five year review period. The DNR and Natural Resources Board had final approval.

d. Feasibility Study Update.

Mushinski reported Dynamics was the vendor hired for the Community Digester Feasibility Study. They were having their first dairy producer meeting on January 30th. Dynamics started this out as a phase project. The first phase will look at the southern landfill property, Port & Resource Recovery property because there was a large concentration of farms and a guardian pipeline that ran close from that site.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

5. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

6. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary**